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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Bory Penitentiary at Plzen

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Bory Penitentiary in Plzen consists of eight sections radiating from a central hall. (See attachment.) Each of the seven prison sections contains three tiers of cells on both sides of a corridor. The eighth section consists of the guardroom, entrance and offices. The prison is surrounded by a brick wall two meters high. The four prison sections to the left of the entrance are for solitary confinement cells; the three sections to the right of the entrance contain cells for more than one prisoner.
2. As of 10 June 1950 the Bory Penitentiary contained 4,600 prisoners. The minimum sentence is two years; formerly the minimum was five years. The prison has a capacity of 6,000 prisoners. Prisoners are assigned to sections in accordance with the type of crime of which they are convicted. The solitary confinement sections are reserved for prisoners who are serving sentences of from 20 years to life imprisonment. In this group, section A contains civilian political prisoners, section B contains civilian prisoners convicted of murder or some other serious offense according to the Act for the Protection of the Republic, section C contains military prisoners without regard for rank who are under sentence for either political or military offenses, and section D contains civilian prisoners convicted of less serious offenses under the Act for the Protection of the Republic, the Retribution Decrees of the President or the penal code. Prisoners in solitary confinement are marked with small metal numbers attached to the left side of their jackets and work during the day in workshops within the prison grounds as shoemakers, dressmakers, and similar jobs. Prisoners convicted of lesser crimes and sentenced for shorter periods are kept in the cells on the right side of the entrance. They are sent under guard to work on the state farms, the Skoda Works, the Plzen brewery, the farmers' co-operative association lands, etc.
3. Below the level of the other prison cells is a section known as the correctional. A prisoner who has disobeyed the guards or has acted against prison orders is placed there in a dark room with a 10 kg. iron ball chained to his leg. He is kept on bread and water for a period of not more than three days and is then returned to his regular cell. The ball may not be removed for as much as three months.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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4. There are 21 guards on duty in the prison sections, one on each tier of each section. The guard on the second tier is in all cases the commander of the guards in his section and is in communication with them by phone. These guards are on duty for 24 hours and are relieved at 7 am. They are armed only with a night stick. The main entrance is guarded by two men, one of whom is seated at a desk to the right of the entrance, is armed with a pistol and opens the main gate whenever the bell rings; the other is in the guardroom to the left of the entrance and registers all entrants and keeps a record of prisoners and guards leaving on work detail. Duty at the front gate is usually taken by First Sergeant Sefrna. Six guards patrol the space between the prison building and the brick wall which surrounds it. Three of them are stationed in cement guard sheds in the yard, which are connected to the alert room by telephone. These guards are armed with rifles and flashlights. They change stations every two hours with the three guards who remain in the alert guardroom behind the courtyard. From 4 pm to 8 am in addition to the outside guards eight dogs are set out on long leashes fastened to runways between the wings of the prison building. Finally, from 7 am to 4 pm a guard armed with a pistol patrols the courtyard behind the entrance. Guard duty is done on the basis of 24 hours on duty and 24 hours off. Spot checks are made of the guard posts every day. All guards except those on duty on the second tier of the prison sections go to lunch from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. The guards on the second tier of the prison sections eat from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Some of the guards are not convinced Communists. There is an arms storeroom behind the office of Inspector Trpak. It contains 80 Soviet sub-machine guns with a calibre of 7.62 mm, 60 model 98 rifles, calibre 7.92, 120 CZ pistols of 7.62 calibre and four large cases of ammunition. There are no machine guns.

5. Personnel among the prison staff include:

Prison director

Lt. Col. Leiss, 50 years old, 168 cm. tall, well built, with a round pock-marked face and gray hair, bald in front. He is a fanatical Communist who has permitted prisoners to be beaten to death.

Deputy director

Master Sergeant Prchlik, 55 years old, 160 cm. tall, slim, with short legs, a round, dark face. He is a Communist of long standing.

Plzen County Director of the Prison Guard Corps

First Sergeant Kunes (senior), 47 years old, 167 cm. tall, stout, with dark brown hair combed straight back, a round face and gray eyes. He is a Communist Party member of long standing who abuses the prisoners.

Enlightenment Officer

Staff Captain Vaclav Ladman, 26 years old, 165 cm. tall, thin, with an oval face and hollow cheeks. He has been a member of the Communist Party since 1945.

Communist Party Chairman

Sergeant Vaclav Brabec, 25 years old, 173 cm. tall, slim, with black hair, an oval face, and dark eyes. He has been a Communist since 1946.

Works Council Chairman

Sergeant Vaclav Tichy, 24 years old, 165 cm. tall, thin, with an oval face. He has been a Communist since 1946.

Cadre chief

Sergeant Kunes (junior), 29 years old, 168 cm. tall, with a round face. He has been a Communist since 1945.

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Inspector of the guards

Trpak, 56 years old, 169 cm. tall, slim, with an oval face and dark brown hair. He is a Communist of long standing.

Guards

Sergeant Seřma, 55 years old, 167 cm. tall, fat with small eyes and a round face. He is not a Communist Party member.

Master Sergeant Bartak, 55 years old, 176 cm. tall, slim, with an oval face and light brown hair. He is a Communist Party member of long standing and is brutal in his treatment of the prisoners.

Master Sergeant Kopic, 52 years old, 180 cm. tall, slim, with a round face and gray hair. He is a Communist of long standing.

6. Prisoners are fed black coffee for breakfast, soup, potato goulash and bread for lunch and black coffee, potatoes or potato soup for supper. Once a week dumplings with gravy are served for supper. On Sunday 200 grams of meat with gravy and potatoes are served for lunch and either cheese or 150 grams of sausage or margarine is issued for supper. Hard workers receive 400 grams of bread; others get 200 grams. Newly arrived prisoners are allowed to receive one letter every six weeks; after six months they are allowed one letter every four weeks and if they are model prisoners they get one letter every two weeks. Model prisoners may become eligible for conditional release after serving two-thirds of their sentence. The morale of the prisoners is high since they are convinced that the Communist government of Czechoslovakia will collapse and they will not have to complete their sentence. Among the prisoners are the following:

Minister of Agriculture under the German occupation Hruby, sentenced for 15 years

Minister President Dr. Krejci, sentenced for 20 years

Minister Jiri Stribny

Former editor of Narodni politika Cerha, sentenced for 20 years

General Janousek

First Lt. Reichel, sentenced for espionage against the USSR

About 39 other army officers connected with the "Most Scandal"

Attachment: Plan of the Bory Penitentiary in Plzen.

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